

## Message Text

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65

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SSM-03 SAM-01 ACDA-07 OMB-01 IO-13 EB-07

AID-05 TRSE-00 /106 W

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R 231418Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1567

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT FRANGIE'S SPEECH TO THE NATION

REF: BEIRUT 6961

1. IN A SPEECH TO THE NATION AUG 16, SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF LEBANON, PRESIDENT FRANGIE LAUNCHED STRONG ATTACK AGAINST PALESTINIANS AND GAVE HIS FORMULA FOR SOLUTION TO LEBANESE WAR.

2. MOST OF FRANGIE'S ADDRESS WAS A VIOLENT DIATRIBE AGAINST PALESTINIANS TO WHOM, HE SAID, LEBANESE HAD OFFERED REFUGE AND WHO HAD REPAID THIS KINDNESS BY TRYING TO TAKE OVER PART OF THE COUNTRY. "THE DOORS OF THE COUNTRY HAVE BEEN BROKEN OPEN BY GUESTS WHO HAVE COMMITTED TREASON AGAINST THE LAWS OF HOSPITALITY." FRANGIE THEN WENT ON TO

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ACCUSE PALESTINIANS OF MAKING SECRET PREPARATIONS FOR WAR,

USING BEIRUT AS PLATFORM FOR REVOLUTION THROUGHOUT ARAB WORLD, SPREADING FALSE RUMORS, AND DUPING SOME LEBANESE ABOUT THEIR TRUE AIMS. HE SAID PALESTINIANS HAD DONE EVERYTHING THEY COULD TO WEAKEN LEBANESE STATE, HAD SOLICITED OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE, PARALYZED THE COUNTRY AND MASSACRED ITS INHABITANTS.

3. SPEAKING OF HIS OWN ROLE, FRANGIE SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE RESIGNED EARLIER IF IT HAD BEEN IN NATIONAL INTEREST. HE DEPLORED EXISTENCE OF TWO LEBANESE FACTIONS AND URGED ALL LEBANESE TO REGROUP AROUND NEW REGIME.

4. FINALLY, PRESIDENT FRANGIE OFFERED HIS FORMULA FOR SETTLEMENT OF PRESENT CIRSIS:

(A) STRICT APPLICATION OF AGREEMENTS BETWEEN LEBANESE AUTHORITIES AND PALESTINAINS (PRESUMABLY, THE CAIRO ACCORDS);

(B) AN APPEAL TO A GROUP OF FRIENDLY AND BROTHER COUNTRIES TO ASSIST LEBANON IN QUESTIONS OF SECURITY, ECONOMY AND RECONSTRUCTION;

(C) AN APPEAL TO ALL LEBANESE PARTIES FOR POLITICAL TRUCE DURING WHICH NEW REGIME CAN BEGIN TO BUILD LEBANON OF TOMORROW; AND

(D) ON BASIS OF FOREGOING, A CEASEFIRE.

5. COMMENT: SOME OBSERVERS HAVE CALLED FRANGIE'S SPEECH "CONCILIATORY." TO EXTENT THAT IT DID NOT DIRECTLY ATTACK HIS LEBANESE POLITICAL OPPONENTS IT MAY HAVE BEEN SO, BUT IT COULD HARDLY HAVE SOUNDED CONCILIATORY TO PALESTINIANS.

6. TWO POINTS IN FRANGIE'S SPEECH HAVE ATTRACTED PARTICULAR ATTENTION. FIRST, HIS REFERENCES TO THE "NEW REGIME" HAVE BEEN INTERPRETED BY MANY AS A SIGN THAT HE DOES IN FACT INTEND TO STEP DOWN ON SEPT 23 AND TURN PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR OVER TO ELIAS SARKIS. SECOND, SOME OBSERVERS, INCLUDING GHASSAN TUEINI (SEE SEPTTEL), LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BELIEVE THAT FRANGIE'S REFERENCE TO "FRIENDLY AND BROTHER COUNTRIES" INCLUDES THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT USG MAY BE ASKED TO PLAY A ROLE IN MAINTAINING THE SECURITY OF LEBANON AS WELL AS ITS RECONSTRUCTION.  
HUNT

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